

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Are Government aware of the increase of motor traffic?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Yes. It has been already answered in sub-division (d).

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): That is with regard to the trunk road.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Joint Secretary to Government*): If it has increased on the trunk road, it must necessarily increase in the minor roads also.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Is the question of widening the roads engaging the attention of the Municipality?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Widening narrow portions as far as practicable and easing curves in dangerous places—these are being considered by the Municipality.

മിസ്റ്റർ ബി. എം. പീറ്റർ : വില്ലിംഗ്ഡൺ അയലൻറിൽ നിന്നു മട്ടാഞ്ചേരിയിലേക്കുള്ള പാലം അവസാനിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തെ റോഡിനു വീതിവളരെ കുറവായെന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനറിയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ : അതു നേരെയാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ട എല്ലാട ചെലവുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Nominated*): Can the roads be widened without demolishing buildings?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Joint Secretary to Government*): That is exactly the difficulty.

PETITIONS FOR TRANSFER OF REGISTRY—PARTICULARS REGARDING

213. Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how many petitions for transfer of registry are now pending in the Revenue Department—

- (i) 5 years old
- (ii) 4 years old
- (iii) 3 years old
- (iv) 2 years old and
- (v) more than one year old, but less than 2 years;

(b) how many petitions were received in the year 1115 and how many are still pending?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*):

(a) (i) 83. •

(ii) 103.

(iii) 208.

(iv) 389.

(v) 2,655.

(b) (i) 5,920.

(ii) Number pending 1,642.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Arising out of these answers, Sir, I ask one comprehensive question. Are Government themselves satisfied about the promptness of the despatch of business in this particular line?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Not completely.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know, what is the general cause of this delay?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): In the oldest of these cases, that is, cases three, four and five years old, the difficulty is this. Persons who transfer their holdings or purchase holdings leave their places and go to foreign places. It is difficult to get at them in order to get the necessary statements signed by them. We have to wait for their arrival, or if we send the papers to their relatives, they take their own time. Also in cases in which sub-divisions have to be effected, the sub-division sketches have got to be signed by the seller and the purchaser. For this purpose also the presence of the parties is necessary. Those cases, in which we find the pendency is so large, are on account of this. With regard to other cases, there are several difficulties. Partition documents have to be produced and awards have also to be produced. The number is so large because parties are averse to produce partition documents and awards. What are we to do? We ask them to produce the documents. They refuse. I have recently proceeded against a party for not producing the documents as a test case. We can however dismiss these petitions, but that will be again multiplying our own work. The pendency is due to all these things. We are trying our best to dispose of the cases by calling upon the subordinates to send quarterly statements, monthly statements and we are scrutinising these statements.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): With regard to the 83 cases which are five years old, may I know whether the delay is due to the fact that the parties are residing in foreign places?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I cannot say without specifically going into each case. But I am more or less cocksure that it is on account of that. Otherwise, no petition would be pending for so long. The number of villages in the State is 273. You will find that there is not even one case for each village. With regard to the second and third category of cases also, you will find that there is not even one case for every village.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): Do these numbers take in petitions for joint registry also?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): No.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Sir, my question was specific. The hon'ble member for Revenue says "It may be so". He could very well have anticipated the supplementary question, as to what the delay was due to.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): You have only asked the number of pending petitions. You have not given even a hint as to the cause of the pendency in every one of these cases.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): You could have expected a supplementary question when you find that as many as 83 petitions are five years old.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): For each one of the cases, I cannot say; but in the majority of cases, the delay must be due to what I have said. Even in 99 per cent of cases, it must be so.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know whether there was any complaint?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): There have been complaints. Every time I go out to the Taluk Office, the first thing I do is to call for these statements.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Are you satisfied that the delay is not due to the Department concerned?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I cannot excuse myself wholly. But I can say that in 99 per cent of cases the delay is not ours. There may be cases in which the delay is ours. In such cases the officers concerned are being adequately dealt with.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are not these petitions for transfer of registry first filed in the Registry Office?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Only in cases of assignments, and that too, not all. That is the real difficulty. Ninety per cent of the people won't do it, because they have to present a copy of the document itself.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): In the case of such petitions presented before the Registry Office, what is the particular necessity of taking statements from the parties?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): That is the rule. The document itself may not be a real transaction. Unless therefore we take statements from the parties, we cannot know the real position.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): When the petition is presented in the Registrar's office, applicants are made to sign statements. What is the necessity for this procedure?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): The statements are taken by the parvathiams.

Mr. President: You cannot ask for explanations as to why a particular thing is done. That is all provided by rules.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is the Land Revenue Department under-staffed?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): Not so far as the village establishment is concerned. But with regard to the Taluk Offices and the Diwan Peishkar's Office, they are under-manned.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): May I ask, Sir, whether there is any difficulty in the Revenue Department on account of the working of the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. President: That does not arise.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ : സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിനുമേൽ ഡിസ്പോസൽ കൂടിച്ചേർക്കുന്നു?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): We have not gone into that question.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is it not a fact that if a person has to be enrolled as a voter he must be in possession of the patta?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): If he pays the tax, I think he is entitled to the vote.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): I don't think that is correct. Now that the transfer of registry is delayed in the case of so large a number of persons, they are denied the vote. For example, under sub-division (v), there are 2,655 cases pending. These 2,665 persons are practically denied the vote by this delay.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): I may say for the information of the House that in the sittings of the revising authority, if the party is enabled to produce the document in original or satisfy the revising authority that he is the owner of that land or if he produces the land revenue receipt, his name is always included in the electoral roll. That is invariably done.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): I know of many instances where it has been rejected by the revising authority. Therefore, Sir, in delaying these 3,000 cases, you are denying the vote to them.

Mr. President: The Diwan Peishkar has made a categorical statement that in the majority of cases the delay is not due to any action of his Department, but to the parties themselves, and that statement has to be accepted.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*) He says: "It must be" and not "It is".

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (*Diwan Peishkar*): I said "it must be" in general with regard to the first three category of cases, i.e., 83, 108 and 389, which have the longest pendency, because I have not scrutinised every case. With regard to this general statement; I still maintain that delay in 99 per cent of such cases is not due to our fault.

THOTTIPAL-KARUVANNUR ROAD—CONSTRUCTION OF— REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING

214. Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the number of petitions received by Government from the Thottipal village Karshaka Samajam regarding the construction of the Thottipal-Karuvannur road during the last 3 years;

(b) have Government come to any decision in the matter; if so, what is it;